Prodigies 521

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Chapter 521

Not long after Zhao Tailai left, Shen Tuo arrived. Clearly, he had been paying close attention to Lin Xun's movements.

It was a form of respect.

In the past, Lin Xun would never receive that sort of treatment.

"Did you succeed?"

Shen Tuo knew the reason for Lin Xun's sudden retreat, but he also was aware that the crafting of the Nine Dragons Cauldron was a confidential matter so he didn't ask too much.

Lin Xun nodded and didn't hide it from him.

Although Shen Tuo was already mentally prepared to hear that, he was still dumbfounded. Only after a long moment did he exclaim, "It's...a miracle!"

Who would have thought that Lin Xun would be able to successfully craft another rune armament after only a few months?!

It was worth mentioning that Rune Founder Luo Feng had claimed that Lin Xun had only successfully made Shattered Tragedy Spear out of sheer luck and that he wouldn't be so lucky to create another rune armament in the future.

His remark caused a dispute at the time!

If Luo Feng learned that Lin Xun had succeeded once again today, would his old face flush with embarrassment?

Shen Tuo sighed emotionally for a long moment before he could recover from the state of astonishment. He didn't come to find Lin Xun to express his emotions as he had actually something serious to discuss with him.

It turned out that during the two months that Lin Xun was gone, many cultivators had come to visit one after another. They each brought different information regarding the antidote for the Demon Tribulation Poison.

Unfortunately, after Shen Tuo's verification, he found that almost all were not trustworthy. The only one that was reliable also seemed too vague.

They said that one had to make it into the depths of the Darkness Kingdom to treat the Demon Tribulation Poison because the poison originated from there.

It was correct nonsense. Although the information was true, everyone in the world knew that the empire and the Darkness Kingdom were mortal enemies, and any citizen of the empire would be slaughtered if they neared the Darkness Kingdom.

Lin Xun's face became overcast as he realized that it was much more difficult than he had thought to eliminate the Demon Tribulation Poison.

Lin Xun couldn't help asking, "Is there no other way?"

Unexpectedly, Shen Tuo said aloud, "Yes, I heard that in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea is a medicinal plant called Dao-Refining Seaspirit Flower. It is said to eliminate all kinds of deadly poisons in the world, but it is just a rumor."

After a pause, he continued, "Also the Spirit Burial Sea is extremely dangerous, as dangerous as entering the depths of the Darkness Kingdom. Many natural disasters happen there, and it is full of terrifying sea monsters and demons. Even great cultivators of the Cyclic Derivation Stage wouldn't dare to set foot there."

Lin Xun's face clouded with disappointment. He realized that it was impossible to help Spirit Vulture eliminate the Demon Tribulation Poison from his body any time soon.

However, he kept the name Dao-Refining Seaspirit Flower in mind.

"Oh right, a secret letter was sent here a few days ago. I heard it is from an old acquaintance of yours, and it must be handed over to you in person." Shen Tuo brought out a perfectly sealed letter.

Old acquaintance?

Frowning, Lin Xun took the letter, broke the seal, and took out a piece of paper.

Immediately, his eyes narrowed and his countenance grew cold.

It said: The lives of all the old and young of Feiyun Village are in my hands. If you don't want them to die then come to Donglin City in three days where I will be waiting for you.

Remember to come alone. If I find out that you have brought over assistance, you will never see those villagers of Feiyun Village again!

Signed, Lian Fei.

Lian Fei!

He was indeed an old acquaintance. How could Lin Xun forget him?

Lian Fei's father, Lian Rufeng, used to be the Village Guard Leader of Feiyun Village. He was greedy and never satisfied. He wanted to take possession of all the property and wealth of Feiyun Village, which caused public anger and sparked Lin Xun to kill him.

When Lin Xun came to Donglin Village, Lian Fei attempted to assassinate Lin Xun several times by using the power of Yao Susu and Yao Tuohai.

How would Lin Xun forget such an old acquaintance?

However, Lin Xun didn't expect to hear about him in such a way after a few years!

He used the lives of the villagers of Feiyun Village to threaten Lin Xun to meet him alone. Without question, it was a trap!

Moreover, Lin Xun was certain that Lian Fei wouldn't dare to handle such a large operation alone, so he had to have the backing of Yao Tuohai.

However, Lin Xun couldn't understand why Yao Tuohai, a Heaven Ascension cultivator of the southwest province, would dare go against him at such a time.

Did he not know that Lin Xun could easily destroy him and the forces behind him with his current strength?

Lin Xun's face grew overcast and troubled. He couldn't understand what sort of motive or plot Lian Fei and Yao Tuohai had to suddenly attack the villagers of Feiyun Village. Although there was enmity between them, the matter wouldn't be as simple as an act of revenge!

Given Yao Tuohai's shrewdness, he must know what sort of consequences there would be to become his enemies at such a time!

Therefore, he must be scheming something!

"Could Lian Fei and the others have some sort of secret support from the three high clans, the Chi, Zuo and Qin Clans?" Lin Xun couldn't compose himself.

Feiyun Village!

That was Lin Xun's first home in the empire. The villagers had treated him like family and regarded him as one of them.

However, their lives were being threatened because of him! How could he remain calm?

"Lian Fei...Yao Tuohai...It seems like we should put an end to everything!" Lin Xun took a deep breath, and his dark eyes flashed intense murderous intent.

"Lin Xun, what's the matter?" Shen Tuo asked as he sensed Lin Xun's changing expression.

"It's nothing."

Lin Xun put away the letter, forcibly maintained a calm expression, and said, "Elder, I may have to leave for a while. During that period, I hope you can help me keep it a secret and not let others know that I have left."

He planned to act alone because he didn't want to take the risk and put the lives of the villagers in danger!

Lin Xun's serious expression made Shen Tuo realize that Lin Xun wasn't joking and that he didn't want others to intervene in the tricky matter that he had to deal with.

He nodded. "Okay, leave it to me. But be sure to let me know if you have any trouble you can't solve."

Lin Xun nodded with a smile.

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On the same day, Lin Xun quietly left Qinglu Academy with Xia Zhi and returned to Mind Cleansing Peak. He briefly informed Lin Zhong and Spirit Vulture of the matter and resolutely told them that he would set off alone.

No one could dissuade him, including Spirit Vulture and Lin Zhong. They could only make secret preparations and immediately take action if they noticed something unusual.

Xia Zhi remained at Mind Cleansing Peak.

She had just undergone an obliteration transformation, and it wasn't suitable for her to act with Lin Xun. She had to restart her training again.

In the evening, Lin Xun left the Forbidden City by himself.

It was also the first time he had left in the past year.

Only very few people knew that the young rune founder had suddenly left.

However, Lin Xun knew that someone was watching him and paying close attention to everything about him in the shadows of the Forbidden City.

The enemy would notice any abnormality whether it was in Mind Cleansing Peak, Qinglu Academy, Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family or the Ye Family and report back to Lian Fei in Donglin City.

Although Lin Xun didn't know who the enemies hiding in the dark were, he didn't want to take the risk of alerting them.

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Two days later.

Donglin City, a city in the southwest of the empire.

At noon, a rune shuttle departed Haze City, the capital city of the southwest province. It pierced the clouds, roared through the sky, and slowly landed on the periphery of Donglin City.

An ordinary-looking youngster in a moon-white robe walked out of the rune shuttle.

Naturally, it was Lin Xun dressed up in disguise.

He couldn't help but feel emotional and complicated after returning to Donglin City after almost three years.

The first city he came to after leaving Feiyun Village was Donglin City.

There, Lin Xun lived in the slums, which were always covered in a foul atmosphere. He also founded Golden Jade Hall and met Gu Yanping and Gu Liang, the father and son.

There, he was caught in one bloody battle after another with the Wu Clan, Lian Fei and the Black Tiger Gang.

It was also there that he suffered unfair treatment in the annual district examination and was deliberately targeted and suppressed by Yao Tuohai. If the mysterious Queen of the Dark Night hadn't arrived in time, he and Xia Zhi would have died at the hands of Yao Tuohai!

At the time, Lin Xun was only at the True Martial Stage and only had Xia Zhi on his side.

Now, he came to Donglin City as a completely different person.

"The grudges in Donglin City must be resolved..." Lin Xun stood at the gate in deep thought.

Then, he no longer wavered and stepped into Donglin City.

Donglin Restaurant.

It was the largest restaurant in Donglin City and specialized in all sorts of delicacies of the Great Three Thousand Mountains. It was very popular among cultivators, and so the business had always been very good.

It was exactly noon, and Donglin Restaurant was as lively and busy as ever. Many cultivators had gathered inside, drinking and talking about the hottest topics in the city.

Lin Xun sat down by the window on the second floor of the restaurant. He ordered some dishes and ate and drank by himself.

Lian Fei said that he would meet him in Donglin City in three days, but he didn't specify the meeting place.

Naturally, Lin Xun wouldn't let him lead him by the nose, so he arrived one day earlier to make some preparations.

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The restaurant was very lively with many cultivators discussing recent hot news.

"The most talked about man in the empire currently is no doubt Lin Xun, who is from our Donglin City!" someone exclaimed and many people echoed his words.

"Yes, who would have imagined that a teenager would achieve such dazzling achievements in fewer than three years? He is unquestionably amazing!"

"The Forbidden City is the Land of the Hidden Dragon. It's a miracle that Lin Xun could stand out from the crowd and dominate the stage."

"Let's think about it. He was ranked first in the provincial examination in our southwest province. Although he never participated in the national examination, he has become a teacher at Qinglu Academy. The most interesting thing is that he is the successor of the Lin Clan in the Forbidden City, and he is in charge of Mind Cleansing Peak, one of the seventy-two aristocratic peaks in the Forbidden City. Now, he is the youngest rune founder in the world and everyone has their eyes on..." someone listed all of Lin Xun's glorious deeds, causing a chorus of exclamations.

Lin Xun listened to the others discuss him with a strange expression. It was the first time he heard other people talk about him in such a way.

"You guys only know that Lin Xun is now famous all over the world, but did you know that Lin Xun was jointly suppressed by the great cultivator Yao Tuohai and the principal of Donglin Academy Yu Canglin and almost lost his life!?" asked a mysterious old man.

It sparked a series of questions.

"Why did Yu Canglin attack Lin Xun? That's outrageous."

"You might not know, but the patriarch of the Wu Clan approached Yu Canglin and asked him to deal with Lin Xun for him. It's worth mentioning that when Lin Xun was in Donglin City, the Wu Clan tried to harm him several times!"

"I see."

Understanding dawned on many people. Some people couldn't help but gloat.

"The Wu Clan and Yu Canglin must have never thought that the boy they attacked would become the most dazzling star in the empire. If Lin Xun returns to Donglin City, I wonder how he will deal with the Wu Clan."

The mysterious old man cleared up uncertainty in Lin Xun's mind. It turned out that Yu Canglin, the principal of Donglin Academy, had deliberately targeted him in the district examination for the Wu Clan!

Suddenly, a grating voice sounded—

"Hey, regardless of how great Lin Xun is, his splendid days will eventually come to an end! From what I know, he will face a great calamity within a few days!"

It was a young dandy man dressed in a gorgeous golden robe and was sitting condescendingly.

Everyone broke into a commotion, finding it hard to believe.

"Brother, dare I ask whether this is true?" someone couldn't help asking.

The golden-robed youth acted mysterious and said leisurely, "In a few days, you will know."

Many people shot a despicable look at him, thinking that he was deliberately stirring things up out of jealousy.

A small group of people continued to question skeptically.

However, the golden-robed youth only answered them vaguely as though he couldn't say anymore. Then, he quickly got up to pay the bill and left.

Donglin City was as bustling as ever. The young golden-robed youth left the restaurant in a hurry and turned into an alleyway when he felt the back of his head throb. His eyes rolled back, and he immediately lost consciousness.

In a pitch-black room.

When the golden-robed youth woke up, his hands were tied behind his back, and a young man was quietly watching him from the opposite side.

"Who are you? How dare you hit me behind my back! Do you want to die?" the golden-robed youth thundered.

"I will ask the questions, and you will answer. If I am satisfied with your answers, then I will let you go. If you don't cooperate with me, then don't blame me for being ruthless."

Of course, the young man was Lin Xun. The golden-robed youth's words had already captured his attention when they were in the restaurant. The others might think he was exaggerating, but Lin Xun had other thoughts.

"Little bastard, are you going to use torture to force me to speak? Do you know who I am? Do you not want to live anymore!? I'll tell you..."

Kacha!

Before he finished his sentence, he wailed in agony. His arms and shoulder blades had just been snapped, so his forehead beaded with sweat while his face twisted with unbearable pain.

"I don't have the patience to deal with you in a civilized manner. You only have one chance. Let's see if you can grasp it," said Lin Xun with a smile. His smile was calm, warm and harmless, but it made the golden-robed youth shiver uncontrollably.

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The Wu Clan.

Lin Xun observed the Wu Clan's official residence from afar.

According to the golden-robed youth, he had overheard from a drunk Wu Clan disciple that it wouldn't be long before Lin Xun died without a burial place. The disciple also guaranteed that it would happen very soon!

The Wu Clan!

The mention of the Wu Clan made Lin Xun think of Wu Henshui and Wu Jie who had both died at his hands. He also thought of how the Wu Clan had hunted him down after he came to Donglin City.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun came to a secluded area, and with a flash, he easily entered the Wu Clan's residence like a wisp of smoke using the Hornless Ice Dragon Step.

He released his tremendous Spirit power as he carefully snuck around the rows upon rows of buildings.

Donglin City was a small city on the southwestern border of the empire. Although the Wu Clan was an overlord of the city, Lin Xun was no longer the same as before and their defenses were nothing but decorations to him.

In the entire Donglin City, there was not a single Heaven Ascension cultivator!

As far as Lin Xun knew, the strongest person in the Wu Clan was only at the Spirit Sea Stage.

He was not the least worried about encountering any life-threatening danger. The only person he needed to be careful of was the great cultivator Yao Tuohai.

However, Lin Xun found it hard to believe that a well-known figure such as Yao Tuohai would be watching over the Wu Clan's residence.

Soon, he stopped abruptly and hid in the shadows of a roof with a flash.

Almost at the same time, many influential figures of the Wu Family were in a meeting in a resplendent hall diagonally opposite of Lin Xun's hiding spot.

The clan leader of the Wu Clan, Wu Chaoqun, First Elder Wu Yunshan, Second Elder Wu Yushan, and Third Elder Wu Lanshan were all present.

"Although this operation is extremely dangerous, it will be worth it as long as that kid Lin Xun is eradicated. Our Wu Clan can relax in the future, and we will no longer have to worry about the little bastard returning to retaliate against us," Wu Chaoqun said sinisterly.

"That would be best. I didn't think that the little bastard would have achieved such dazzling achievements. I regret that I didn't kill him with all my strength back then and allowed him to become so strong. It's unfortunate." First Elder Wu Yunshan sighed.

The others felt the same. Ever since they had learned that Lin Xun had risen to fame in the Forbidden City, they had been feeling very uneasy and feared that Lin Xun would come back to get revenge.

After all, the Wu Clan had a feud with Lin Xun back then, and it couldn't be resolved in a friendly way. Who knew whether Lin Xun would have the urge to come back and go on a killing spree?

If they could take advantage of the opportunity to eradicate Lin Xun, they would be glad to do so.

"It will be fine. Elder Yao Tuohai is personally in charge of the operation. I am confident it will be successful, so we don't need to worry about Lin Xun's retaliation if this matter is exposed," Wu Chaoqun reassured.

All of a sudden, four divine rainbows appeared in the hall like they descended from the sky and sealed off the entire hall.

The Four Coiling Dragon Pillars.

It was Lin Xun!

Rumble!

Wu Chaoqun and the others couldn't counter in time. Their visions blurred like they had been plunged into an illusion. They were surrounded by an expanse of whiteness and saw nothing but four towering ancient pillars.

This is bad!

Their faces blanched with horror as they frantically searched for a path of escape. But no matter how they resisted, they couldn't break out from the seal of the four stone pillars.

Their faces grew increasingly pale, and they felt a sense of impending doom.

At that moment, Lin Xun emerged from the illusion. He swept his eyes over Wu Chaoqun and the others, saying indifferently, "Tell me where Lian Fei is, and I can let you die painlessly."

"Who are you?" Wu Chaoqun asked after taking a deep breath.

"Do you not remember me?" Lin Xun smiled and showed his true face.

"It's you! Lin Xun?!"

Wu Chaoqun and the others froze to the spot. They had never thought that Lin Xun would appear in their Wu Clan's residence!

How did he know?

Ever since we decided to work with Lian Fei, we have never leaked any information about the operation.

They couldn't imagine how Lin Xun would come to their door one day earlier than they expected!

"Hahaha, the villagers in Feiyun Village are all in Young Master Lian Fei's hands! Don't tell me you would dare to act violently at such a time?" Wu Chaoqun laughed.

"Is that right?"

Bang!

Lin Xun waved his sleeve and launched a terrifying blast of wind. It instantly crushed First Elder Wu Yunshan's head and splattered blood everywhere.

"How dare you!"

"Lin Xun, do you not care about the lives of those villagers?"

"I'll tell you that even if you kill us, Elder Yao Tuohai won't let you go!"

Wu Chaoqun and the others roared in panic. They had never thought that Lin Xun would kill right away!

The most terrifying thing was that even First Elder Wu Yunshan had failed to block Lin Xun's blow! They had finally realized that Lin Xun was completely different from three years ago.

He was no longer a True Martial Stage teenager. Instead, he was a famous young genius in the empire. He possessed a Spirit Sea cultivation base and mighty prestige!

"I'm not here to listen to your nonsense. Answer my questions. Otherwise, I'll send you to death and find Lian Fei to settle things," said Lin Xun indifferently.

He was alone, but the frightening aura emanating from his body made Wu Chaoqun and the others feel as if they were suffocating. Their hair stood on end, and their souls had almost left their bodies.

We can't fight against him!

He's too strong!

They were all at the Spirit Dipper Stage, but in Lin Xun's eyes, they wouldn't be able to withstand a single strike.

Wu Chaoqun took a deep breath and asked. "What do you want to know?" His face was utterly ashen. As he faced Lin Xun, he finally knew what fear and despair were.

The death of the First Elder Wu Yunshan was the best proof.

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Lin Xun asked directly, "Where is Lian Fei?"

Wu Chaoqun's face paled with terror. Although he felt extremely humiliated, he knew he had to answer Lin Xun. "He will show up tomorrow. Before that, no one knows where he is."

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. "How do you contact him?"

Wu Chaoqun shook his head. "He always contacted us when needed."

Lin Xun scrunched his brows. "To be honest, you are a bunch of trash in my eyes. I believe that as long as Lian Fei isn't stupid, he wouldn't think that you guys can deal with me. But he still chose to work with you guys, why is that?"

Those words seemed harsh and humiliating to Wu Chaoqun and the others, but they had to admit that they were no match for Lin Xun. Even if everyone in the Wu Clan worked together, they couldn't possibly kill Lin Xun.

That was the terror of the Spirit Sea Stage. Its strength might be considered nothing in the Forbidden City, but it was terrifying in a small city on the southwestern border of the empire.

"Because he knows that there is enmity between us," answered Wu Chaoqun with a dark and unpleasant expression. In truth, they were also puzzled. Lian Fei was Yao Tuohai's son-in-law, so it would be a wiser choice to work with stronger forces, but Lian Fei went to find the Wu Clan instead. Perhaps, it was indeed due to their hatred towards Lin Xun.

Wu Chaoqun wasn't sure of the real reason.

However, his answer made Lin Xun realize that Lian Fei was using the Wu Clan as chess pieces, but Wu Chaoqun and the others still hadn't realized the truth.

"Then, do you know where Lian Fei imprisoned the villagers of Feiyun Village?" Lin Xun asked the question he was most concerned about.

Wu Chaogun shook his head.

"Really?" A murderous glint flashed in Lin Xun's dark eyes.

Wu Chaoqun summoned the courage and answered, "Yes."

Bang!

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and suddenly slapped Second Elder Wu Yushan's head. His head resembled a broken watermelon as blood trickled down. Wu Chaoqun and Third Elder Wu Lanshan screamed in horror.

In their eyes, Lin Xun was like a devil. He killed ruthlessly and without wavering.

"I will ask you for the last time. If you don't give me a satisfying answer, the entire Wu Clan will be buried with you."

Lin Xun's indifferent words echoed in Wu Chaoqun's ears like a rumble of lightning in the clear sky. He felt like he was having a breakdown.

"Under the forbidden area in the back of our Wu Clan's residence..."

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The Four Coiling Dragon Pillars were withdrawn, and corpses were strewn across the ground.

Lin Xun had wiped out the entire Wu Clan including Wu Chaoqun and Wu Lanshan. He wasn't ruthless and cruel, but their hatred towards him had to be retaliated and deterred.

Shua!

In a flash, Lin Xun appeared in the forbidden area at the rear of the Wu Clan's residence. He searched around and found an underground entrance covered with rune arrays.

That puny level of rune arrays, of course, couldn't stop Lin Xun. He effortlessly passed through them without needing to decipher them.

He disguised himself as Wu Chaoqun and adopted his behavior and demeanor.

Every Blood Kill Camp student had to master the disguise skill, so Lin Xun was very proficient in it.

Through the entrance was a tunnel that led into the underground. It was paved with stone steps, and both sides of the wall were hung with lamps, creating a soft glow in the dark tunnel.

Lin Xun released his Spirit power and didn't sense any danger. Only then did he believe Wu Chaoqun. This place is indeed not a trap; it's actually a secret chamber for the Wu Clan to store treasures.

At the end of the tunnel stood an underground hall. It was brightly lit and very spacious inside.

According to Wu Chaoqun, all the villagers of Feiyun Village were imprisoned inside the hall, and it was guarded by Lian Fei's right-hand man. He wouldn't easily let anyone near the hall.

"Who is it?" someone shouted just as Lin Xun arrived.

"It's me." Lin Xun's expression didn't ripple in the slightest as he approached the underground hall.

But then his eyes narrowed when he saw the person who asked the question.

The man had a dark beard and dark hair and a dignified face. He was Yu Canglin, the principal of Donglin Academy!

He was known for being old-fashioned, inflexible, serious, and never smiling. Many years ago, he became one of the most well-known Spirit Sea cultivators in Donglin City.

Lin Xun knew that besides Yao Tuohai suppressing him in the district examination three years ago, there was also Yu Canglin!

However, Lin Xun never thought that Yu Canglin, the well-respected principal of Donglin Academy, would appear in the Wu Clan's underground hall.

He found it extremely strange. When he interrogated Wu Chaoqun, he never mentioned that Yu Canglin was also there!

It seems like that old thing wanted to plot against me even before he died. He wants to use Yu Canglin's hand to deal with me...Lin Xun had figured out the reason right away.

"Fellow Cultivator Wu, why are you here?" Yu Canglin asked in surprise.

Lin Xun breathed an inward sigh of relief, knowing that Yu Canglin hadn't seen through his disguise. "I came to take a look," he said in a hoarse voice. "Although we are going to get rid of the kid tomorrow, I still feel uneasy."

Yu Canglin nodded and reassured, "Master Yao Tuohai has personally planned this operation, so I believe Lin Xun won't be able to do anything. You don't need to worry."

Lin Xun nodded as he inadvertently darted his eyes around the hall. He found that it was empty apart from some chairs and tables.

Where are they? Lin Xun frowned, a bad feeling surging in his heart. Either Wu Chaoqun was lying or something unexpected had already happened.

"Patriarch Wu, is there something?" Suddenly, a young man in a gorgeous robe walked out from a side door in the hall. "Didn't I say to not come here for no reason?"

Lin Xun, who was in Wu Chaoqun's disguise, smiled in embarrassment. "I'm just too worried."

"Don't worry. Nothing will happen if I am guarding those country bumpkins, nothing will happen," the young man said disdainfully, seemingly despising Wu Chaoqun's cowardness.

"Can I...go in and take a look?"

The fake Wu Chaoqun said hesitantly, "I'm worried an accident will happen since we are going to take action tomorrow."

The young man stared at Lin Xun strangely. After a long moment, he burst into laughter, "Lin Xun, stop acting! My lord has already anticipated your arrival."

"What are you talking about?" Yu Canglin's eyes went wide. "You mean...you mean he is Lin Xun?" He pointed at Lin Xun.

The gorgeous-robed young man smiled. "Yes, Wu Chaoqun swore that he would never set foot here before tomorrow. I believe he would never go back on his words!"

Yu Canglin's face instantly turned cold as he swept a glance over at Lin Xun.

"You knew I would come but you are still so calm. You must be prepared, am I right?"

Lin Xun raised his hand to remove his disguise, revealing his true face. But his heart sank as he realized the whole operation was a little strange.

"It really is you!" Yu Canglin's pupils shrank in disbelief.

"Yes, according to my lord's prediction, you wouldn't obediently submit and would take action. So he specially arranged for me to wait for you here. Indeed, you came as predicted," the gorgeous-robed young man said confidently.

Lin Xun composed himself right away. "What if I hadn't come today?"

The gorgeous-robed young man smiled. "We would have sent someone to invite you here tomorrow."

They had been planning for a long time, so their plan was very cautious and took every possibility into account.

"It seems like you only worked with the Wu Clan to divert my attention." Lin Xun's expression became calmer and calmer.

"You're too polite. Strictly speaking, the Wu Clan is just cannon fodder. I believe you have already slaughtered them all, am I right? Well, does the feeling of revenge make you feel better?"

Lin Xun smiled. "You just said that they are cannon fodder. If I want to vent the hatred in my heart, killing them won't be enough for that."

"Yao Qing, if the Wu Clan is cannon fodder then what am I?" Yu Canglin, who had been silent for a while, suddenly asked aloud. His voice quivered with undisguised anger. He had never thought that he would also be deceived!

"Elder, calm down, you are a friend of my lord. The Wu Clan can't be compared to you. In this operation, you will personally escort Lin Xun to Qingfeng County," the young man called Yao Qing apologetically explained.

"Hmph!" Yu Canglin snorted. Although he was infuriated, he knew his priority should be to deal with Lin Xun.

"Qingfeng County?" Lin Xun scrunched his brows.

"Haha, did you think we will deal with you in Donglin City?" Yao Qing laughed contemptuously.

Then, he sighed, "We have no other choice. Lin Xun, you are so famous now. The whole empire knows about you, and many powerful forces are close to you. If someone helps you in secret, there are too many variables we need to take account of."

"Since that's the case, it's better to lure you to Donglin City and then make you follow us obediently to Qingfeng County without anyone knowing. At that time, we won't need to worry about any accidents happening."

Yao Qing smirked at Lin Xun like watching a prey fall into a trap.

"What a deceptive plan! Yao Tuohai thinks too highly of me." Lin Xun had to admire Yao Tuohai's scheming mind. His arrangement was almost flawless.

"But—how do you know that I will just sit still and do nothing?" Lin Xun asked in puzzlement.

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Yao Qing laughed again. "Of course, my lord said that if you showed up here alone it proves that the villagers of Feiyun Village are extremely important to you. Otherwise, you wouldn't dare to take such a risk."

After a pause, he continued triumphantly, "So, if you still care about the lives of the villagers, do as we say and follow us." His voice was filled with a sense of superiority.

As Yao Qing was speaking, he turned around and walked through the side door in the hall. When he reappeared, he was carrying an unconscious middle-aged man.

This middle-aged man had dark, rough skin. He was big-boned and was cloaked in an old animal skin coat. From one glance, he was clearly a villager who often worked long hours in the fields.

Uncle Tie Shan!

Lin Xun lost his composure, and his chest tightened.

When Lin Xun first arrived in Feiyun Village, the first villager he met was Tie Shan. He still remembered how the older man had been sitting in the aeth fields with a troubled look on his face.

He still remembered him dancing with joy and excitement when he helped him eradicate the infestation of worms in his aeth fields.

He was a simple, honest, and friendly middle-aged man. Lin Xun wouldn't have integrated into Feiyun Village so quickly if not for him.

However, he was now unconscious, in the enemy's hands, and his life was at risk!

Yao Qing sharply sensed the change in Lin Xun's emotion and couldn't help but chuckle in satisfaction. "Look, he's one of the villagers you care about the most. I believe you now realize that we haven't deceived you. The other villagers are now settled in Qingfeng County. I can't imagine you making another choice than to go there with us."

Yu Canglin's eyes lit up with surprise. He never expected Yao Tuohai to come up with such a comprehensive strategy. It was like an inescapable net and left Lin Xun with no room to struggle out!

He had made many arrangements and plans to deal with Lin Xun. His shrewdness and abilities were too terrifying!

Lin Xun was silent. The moment he saw Tie Shan, he knew that the worst had happened.

He wasn't surprised, but...

Indescribable anger and hatred were fermenting in his heart like a volcano on the verge of erupting.

In the depths of his black eyes seemed to be an unfathomable abyss surfacing, and a chilling storm was gathering within them.

Yu Canglin's entire body suddenly froze and a shiver ran down his spine. He sensed frightening, stifling, killing intent coming from Lin Xun.

He...

How can he be so strong?

Yu Canglin's heart trembled. Three years ago, in his eyes, Lin Xun was as worthless as a blade of grass, but now, the youth could suffocate him and make him tremble with his aura alone.

Shua!

While Yu Canglin was distracted, Lin Xun made a move. He took a step forward and clutched Yao Qing's neck with lightning speed.

The terrifying murderous intent was like a peerless sharp blade. It made Yao Qing's face deathly pale and his eyes wide with fear.

"You...you dare to kill here? Do you know that if you kill me, those villagers will also pay in blood!" Yao Qing screamed, trying hard to calm himself down.

Crack-

Lin Xun ignored him. He tightly gripped his victim's neck with his right hand while he crushed the man's arm and shoulder blade with his left like a pair of iron pincers. Inch by inch, flesh exploded one after another into a shower of blood, and the cloying smell of blood saturated the atmosphere.

Yao Qing let out a blood-curdling scream and struggled frantically, but he couldn't break free, let alone stop Lin Xun.

From beginning to end, Lin Xun's expression never changed once.

The method he used had a resounding name in Blood Kill Camp: Scarlet Falls. It was a type of torture that used precise strength to crush the enemy's body inch by inch, and the splattering of blood rained down like a waterfall.

During the process, the victim must be kept conscious and feel the agonizing pain of every inch of their body being crushed. This was to bring pain to their sight, ears, and soul.

If the enemy died before the torture was over, that meant they were not good enough and hadn't grasped the essence of Scarlet Falls. The Blood Kill Camp instructors would laugh at them if they learned about it.

Of course, such cruel torture was generally used on the Darkness Race, but Lin Xun used it on Yao Qing.

Naturally, Lin Xun's mastery of Scarlet Falls was superb.

Under the guidance of Xiaoke and Xiaoman, he had endured the bloody stench and slaughtered countless beasts before he grasped the essence of this torture.

If the instructors of Blood Kill Camp saw him torture Yao Qing, they would be amazed by his amazing skills.

It was like art!

But it was an art of a bloody and cruel nature. Ordinary people would be scared out of their wits and faint if they saw the process in person.

In the empty underground hall, scarlet flesh and blood rained like a waterfall, accompanied by shrill, blood-curdling screams.

Under Lin Xun's precise control, Yao Qing wouldn't lose consciousness or die!

Yu Canglin stared, aghast at the sight, his chest heaving up and down. It was as though he was witnessing an executioner from hell using an extremely cruel method of torture.

His face blanched, and his body became soaked in cold sweat. He couldn't help but shudder violently and almost vomited.

As a Spirit Sea expert of the older generation, Yu Canglin was knowledgeable and experienced, but when he saw such a bloody scene, he finally realized there truly was something worse than death!

What frightened him the most was that Lin Xun's expression had remained unchanged from beginning to end.

It was also at that moment that he realized something. Unconsciously, he gave up on all thoughts of saving Yao Qing!

He didn't even dare to look directly at Lin Xun...

.

In the end, Yao Qing was kept alive, but it was no different from death.

He had lost all limbs like a tree with all its branches cut off. He was crippled and only faint consciousness remained.

"I'm sorry, I lost control of my murderous rage and I needed to vent," Lin Xun suddenly said.

Yao Qing's eyes were lifeless, and his face was deathly pale to the point of becoming transparent. His entire body was shrouded in a gloomy aura of despair.

"You...you will die..." His lips quivered with anger and his weak but resentful voice seemed to be squeezed out from his chest.

"Actually, you are very pitiful. Since Yao Tuohai sent you here, it means you are just cannon fodder like the Wu Clan. To them, it doesn't matter whether you die or live."

Lin Xun said indifferently, "If I killed you now, do you think Yao Tuohai will kill all the villagers in Feiyun Village for you? No way, he needs to use those villagers to threaten me. He wouldn't do that until he sees me."

Yao Qing's lips trembled with emotion. He glowered maliciously at Lin Xun as though he refused to believe him.

"It doesn't matter if you don't want to admit it. Sometimes the truth is too cruel and you don't know what to do. Maybe you will feel better when you die."

Lin Xun's voice was soft and calm like he was chatting with an old friend. But Yu Canglin felt his blood freeze like he had fallen into an ice cave when he heard it.

That young man looks gentle, warm and harmless. Who would have thought that beneath his skin is a bloodthirsty devil?

"You will also die, and die a worse death than mine!" Yao Qing roared at the top of his voice, and his face flushed strangely. It was unknown where the power came from.

But before his voice faded, he went stiff like he had drained all his life force.

"Is that right?"

Lin Xun smiled as he gently ran his hands over Yao Qing's eyelids and said, "I'm sorry, you're just an errand boy. I really shouldn't have tortured you just now. Rest in peace and hope you don't become cannon fodder in your next life..."

Yao Qing's eyes almost popped out from anger. He took his last breath and died.

Lin Xun slowly got up and looked at Yu Canglin in the distance.

Yu Canglin shuddered and said with an ashen face, "Are you not worried that if Yao Tuohai is angered, he will kill some of the villagers to scare you?"

Lin Xun asked in response, "Do you think Yao Tuohai will let me live if I go to Qingfeng County?"

Yu Canglin fell silent.

Lin Xun continued, "Then I'll ask you again. If I die, will Yao Tuohai let those villagers go?"

Yu Canglin kept quiet. Impossible, to cover up the fact he killed Lin Xun, he would slaughter all the villagers!

"Since that's the case, it's useless for me to worry."

Lin Xun's expression was of utmost calm, and there wasn't a ripple of emotion. But the more he was like that, the more terrified Yu Canglin felt.

"What are you going to do with me?" Yu Canglin's voice was low and gloomy. He knew that he had to face the problem now.

"You may be exempt from the death penalty, but not from punishment!"

After a while, Lin Xun crouched down, carried the unconscious Tie Shan on his back and left the underground hall.

From beginning to end, he ignored Yu Canglin. He was already old and lacked the courage or strength to even resist, so he couldn't possibly stir up any waves.

Donglin City was bustling and crowded with people and traffic.

No one was aware that all the leaders of the Wu Clan had died violently, and no one knew that Yu Canglin, the renowned principal of Donglin Academy, had become a cripple.

On the periphery of Donglin City, the rune shuttle that was destined for Qingfeng County had already left.

However, there was an old and ordinary jeweled ship waiting there. When Lin Xun arrived with Tie Shan, the ship immediately took the two and soared into the air.

The jeweled ship seemed old and ordinary, but it traveled at an incredible speed and vanished into the sky!

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The jeweled ship looked old and ordinary, but the interior was extremely spacious, grand and luxurious. The most amazing thing was that on both sides of the ship were sixteen of the newest type of rune cannons!

It was not an ordinary ship.

In the cabin, Mu Wansu looked at the young man opposite her with a trace of emotion. Her red lips moved slightly as she sighed, revealing her pearly white teeth. Given your current status in the empire, I'm surprised this sort of thing is still happening to you."

Lin Xun was also studying his old friend opposite him. Mu Wansu was undoubtedly an extremely beautiful woman. She was mature, charming and exquisitely stunning, like a plump peach.

As always, she was in a tailored black dress that perfectly highlighted her graceful and slender figure and contrasted with her fair and soft skin. It added a seductive charm to her.

When they first met, Lin Xun was still a teenager living in Feiyun Village, and she was the person in charge of Stone Cauldron Alms in Donglin City.

Three years had passed since then. Lin Xun's situation and identity had undergone earth-shaking changes. He had captured the attention of the entire world. On the other hand, Mu Wansu had left Donglin City and became in charge of Stone Cauldron Alms of the southwestern province.

"Big Sister Wansu has become even more beautiful than before!" Lin Xun exclaimed. Mu Wansu radiated intelligence, capability and elegance. She was like a beautiful rose that had bloomed through the wind and rain.

Mu Wansu was taken aback at first. Then, she bit her lips and rolled her eyes. "Little bastard, at such a time, you are still talking nonsense. Do you want a beating?"

Lin Xun leaned back leisurely on the chair, folded his hands behind his head, and said with a smile, "Whenever there is an important event, I am always calm and very serious, but that wouldn't help right now."

Mu Wansu's expression eased and she reassured, "Don't worry too much. If there hasn't been an accident, the people in Qingfeng County must have already begun to act."

After a pause, she suddenly sneered, "Yao Tuohai is crazy. Does he think that his Yao Family can do whatever they want? Perhaps, he can summon the wind and rain in the southwest province, but in the eyes of true major forces, he is just an old dog. Even Stone Cauldron Alms can destroy him and wipe out his clan with its power!"

Lin Xun said, "Do you think Yao Tuohai is playing with fire?"

"Is he not?" Mu Wansu asked in response.

Lin Xun's dark eyes were profound, and his voice was low as he said, "I've been thinking about this. Just why would Yao Tuohai choose to go against me at such a time? To everyone, it is an extremely stupid decision and he must also know that. Yao Tuohai, or even the entire Yao Family combined, can't shake me in the slightest, but that didn't stop him. What do you think he is planning?"

Mu Wansu thought for a moment and said, "Do you think that there are other forces secretly supporting Yao Tuohai to do so?"

"That is a possibility."

Mu Wansu assumed a solemn expression. "In that case, do we need to prepare more power?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "No, in this operation, I already have the secret support of Stone Cauldron Alms, the Steel-Blood King's Ning Family, the East Sea King's Ye Family and the Never Falling Geezer Gong Clan. This is to prevent any unpredictable changes from happening."

Mu Wansu's eyes glowed a brilliant light. She realized that Lin Xun had already made various preparations for this operation.

Immediately, she couldn't help but marvel inwardly. In just three years, Lin Xun had already amassed such tremendous power. I never imagined he would become so strong.

"Big Sister Wansu, why do you stare at me all the time? Am I too good-looking?" Lin Xun teased.

Mu Wansu spat, and her beautiful and charming eyes stared at Lin Xun fiercely. "Tell me the truth, how many backups have you prepared this time?"

Lin Xun said casually, "Not much, but should be enough."

Lin Xun had indeed left the Forbidden City alone and didn't alert anyone, but that did not mean he would foolishly act alone!

If someone didn't use the strength they had and broke into a dragon's den alone, it wouldn't be called courageous but stupid.

Lin Xun had finally achieved such extraordinary prestige and status after training for so long. He only hoped to be able to have the power to resolve any unexpected accidents one day.

But having said that, given Lin Xun's current power, he could flatten the Yao Family alone without the help of other people.

However, he chose not to do that because he knew that Yao Tuohai was not an idiot. The older man would no doubt be fully prepared and had a trick up his sleeve.

Lin Xun couldn't help but be cautious. Of course, he wasn't cautious of Yao Tuohai but of the power behind the man!

So, before leaving the Forbidden City, he secretly instructed Spirit Vulture and Lin Zhong to help him make secret arrangements and contact other forces to help.

Such as Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, Ye Family, and the Gong Family.

As the strongest business in the empire, Stone Cauldron Alms had people from all over the world, and the Ning Family and the Ye Family were the same.

It couldn't be easier for them to arrange for some people to help Lin Xun without alarming the enemy.

Most importantly, the Yao Family was nothing compared with behemoths such as Stone Cauldron Alms. But their purpose wasn't to deal with Yao Tuohai.

"I'm going to check on Uncle Tie Shan." Lin Xun got up and headed towards a quiet room in the cabin.

Tie Shan was only unconscious and was injured. Lin Xun felt a lot more at ease because that showed the enemy wouldn't dare to go too far before he came.

.....

Qingfeng County.

The night was as dark as ink. Qingfeng County was much busier and more prosperous than Donglin City.

Even when night fell, the city was still brightly lit, crowded with an endless stream of people and traffic.

It was the busiest time of the day for places such as brothels, taverns and gambling houses.

Three Wonders House.

It was the most well-known brothel in Qingfeng County and the sacred place in the hearts of countless young masters because the women there were not only beautiful and charming, but they knew three wonders that made many people obsessed with them.

What three wonders?

Dancing wonders, singing wonders, and wonders in the bedroom!

Tonight, the business in Three Wonders House was as good as always. Self-proclaimed young masters, wealthy businessmen, famous cultivators of extraordinary status and powerful figures from different sects and clans had all gathered there, indulging themselves.

In room no. 9, a young man in a luxurious robe was pacing around impatiently. He had sent down an order to have the new girl of Three Wonders House serve him, but she still hadn't come after several minutes. He heard that she was as stunning as a flower and, most importantly, a virgin. He had secretly sneaked out from his clan in order to spend a night in Three Wonders House.

Creak!

Just when the young man in a luxurious robe was becoming irritated, the door was pushed open, revealing a graceful figure.

It was a girl with silky long hair flowing down her body like a waterfall. Her dress was whiter than snow, her face was icily beautiful, and her skin was as clear and smooth as jade. Her beauty was out of this world.

The young man stared at her with crazed lust, and his breathing became heavy. It was very rare to find a beautiful woman with an icy demeanor in Three Wonders House.

He never thought that he would encounter one!

"Yao Yukun?" the girl said aloud, her voice as clear and cold as a mountain spring.

The young man asked in surprise, "Miss, do you know me?"

The girl wrinkled her nose in disgust. "If you are then come with me."

The young man shivered, and the desire in his heart was immediately extinguished. He realized that the situation wasn't right!

Dong!

However, before he could react, his head throbbed with pain and he lost consciousness.

.....

Fenggui House.

It was a unique tavern that only allowed famous people in Qingfeng County.

Yao Fangfei was drinking alone inside.

"Are you Miss Fangfei?"

A handsome man approached her.

"Who are you?" Yao Fangfei asked warily.

"A person who is destined to come here and wants to invite Miss Fangfei for a drink," the man said with a smile.

"Sorry, I am busy."

Yao Fangfei directly refused, but the man stretched out his arm and boldly wrapped it around her shoulders.

Just as Yao Fangfei was about to snap and slap the shameless man, she saw everything darken before her, her body went weak, and she fell into the man's arms.

"Beautiful wine and a beautiful woman! What a pleasant night. Unfortunately, I don't have the luck to enjoy it..."

The man finished his glass of wine in one gulp, put Yao Fangfei on his shoulders, and strode out of Fenggui House.

The same thing happened in different areas in Qingfeng County on the same night.

No one was alerted at all.

Yao Commercial, one of the properties of the Yao Clan, had been closed for business more than ten days ago. They claimed that they were temporarily closing in order to conduct inventory taking.

However, on the same night, a group of men in black quietly infiltrated Yao Commercial and took control of all the staff, guards and servants. From beginning to end, no one was able to escape or resist.

On the same night, strange things happened in a mine dozens of miles away from Qingfeng County. The mine was a property of the Yao Family, but that night, all the Yao Family members in charge of the mine disappeared as though they had evaporated into thin air.

Night time in Qingfeng County was lively, charming and colorful, but who would have thought that a dozen cases of bizarre disappearances would happen?

The disappearances were all related to the Yao Family.

The night grew darker and darker. It was deep in the night, but it was still bright in the grand hall of the Yao Family.

Yao Tuohai was sitting silently in the center with a solemn expression.

The night seems longer than usual.

But if we survive tonight, tomorrow we might welcome the new dawn...

Yao Tuohai thought as he waited.

But before dawn came, a panicked scream suddenly rang from afar, sounding particularly ear-piercing on the silent night.

Yao Tuohai scrunched his brows.

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"Lord, it's not good, Young Master Yukun from the First Elder's residence, Miss Fangfei from the Third Elder's residence, Young Master Yuting from the Ninth Elder's residence..."

A middle-aged housekeeper rushed into the main hall in a panic and threw out several names, "They...they...are all gone!"

Yao Tuohai said angrily, "Didn't I say that no clansmen are allowed to go out during this period? Why did they disappear?"

"They..." The housekeeper's expression changed.

"Have you sent people to find them?" asked Yao Tuohai.

"I have, but I am worried that if they go out at this time, something might go wrong and it will affect your arrangements," the housekeeper said helplessly.

"It's okay, I've been planning this for a long time so I'm not worried that Lin Xun can cause a huge storm. You can go now. Don't let anyone know about this so as not to affect the others," Yao Tuohai ordered.

The housekeeper nodded and left.

Yao Tuohai sat there alone in deep thought.

Before he knew it, dawn broke and a ray of light pierced the darkness, illuminating the earth.

He got up, muttering to himself, "Lin Xun, if you don't come today, perhaps no one will be able to stop you from doing what you want in the future, but if you come today, you are doomed!"

....

At the crack of dawn, Lin Xun appeared alone outside the gate to Qingfeng County.

Fifteen minutes later, he came to an area resided by the Yao Clan.

It was easy to find because the Yao Clan was the largest clan in Qingfeng County and had been controlling Qingfeng County for hundreds of years.

Pretty much everyone in Qingfeng County knew about the Yao Clan.

Naturally, it was easy for him to find out where the Yao Family resided.

It was an area with dozens of towering mountain peaks. They rose and fell like halberds piercing into the sky.

The Yao Clan occupied the area just before the mountain peaks.

The morning light bathed the mist-shrouded mountain peaks in the distance in a golden glow and made the rows of buildings at the foot of the mountains look even more magnificent.

However, in stark contrast to the past, a chilling murderous spirit was rising from the Yao Clan's residence like smoke signals, turning the sky dark and changing the atmosphere.

It was terrifying killing intent!

From afar, Lin Xun could tell that it was a vision caused by the gathering of intense murderous intent of the cultivator.

There was no doubt that a series of deadly traps had been set up in the depths of the Yao Family's residence, waiting for Lin Xun to arrive.

However, no one had expected him to arrive at the break of dawn, so when a guard stationed on the watchtower saw Lin Xun, he froze for a second.

"Who are you?" the guard roared.

Boom!

Only a streak of fierce and tyrannical blade qi responded to him. It tore through the air and slashed down like a twelve-foot-long rainbow.

The lofty watchtower suddenly crumbled and collapsed, crushing the guard to death.

Rumble—

The explosion whipped up a cloud of smoke and dust. The blade qi was too strong. It not only smashed the watchtower, but also tore a crack into the magnificent and tall gate of the Yao Family's residence.

"How dare you!"

"Who are you? How dare you come to the Yao Family's residence to cause trouble!? Do you not want to live anymore?!"

Suddenly, shadows sped out from the depths of the Yao Family's residence and appeared in front of the gate amidst furious roars.

Lin Xun stood alone, his dark hair fluttering behind him, his handsome face devoid of expression and his graceful figure straight as a spear.

He clasped the broken blade in his hand. It released a dazzling starlight brilliance, complementing his extraordinary and ethereal demeanor.

"What? I'm already here, but Yao Tuohai won't dare to come out to see me." Lin Xun's voice reverberated like a rumble of thunder.

The figures that rushed out were taken aback for a moment before they broke into an uproar.

"It's that kid!"

"Hahaha, I wondered who it was. It turns out that you came here to die! Did you come to the Yao Family's door so early because you are in a hurry to reincarnate?!"

"Kid, you are dead! You destroyed our Yao Family's gate!"

The Yao Family members roared with cackles of disdain and excitement. They were also very curious as this was the first time many of them were seeing Lin Xun's true face. But they found it hard to believe such a handsome young man had become one of the most famous figures in the world.

Lin Xun ignored their ridicule and maintained his calm and undisturbed demeanor. Although he was standing alone, he had an air of superiority around him.

"Lin Xun, it is indeed you!"

Soon, Yao Tuohai appeared. His eyes were bright as lightning, and he exuded a powerful presence while maintaining a scholarly demeanor.

Three years ago, when Lin Xun entered Donglin City for the first time, he had heard of Yao Tuohai. In the southwest province of the empire, he was known as an expert second only to Liu Wujun, the governor of the southwest province.

There were countless rumors about him, and he was a well-known figure.

However, in Lin Xun's eyes, he only had one identity—his enemy!

"I'm here now. Where are the villagers of Feiyun Village?" asked Lin Xun.

"Little friend, you kept your promise. I admire that." Yao Tuohai smiled and signaled with a wave of his hand.

Soon, a group of ragged villagers were escorted out. There were over one hundred people, and all of them looked gloomy and lifeless like zombies.

Although Lin Xun hadn't seen them for three years, he immediately recognized Village Chief Xiao Tianren, the hunter Yinghao, Zhou Zhong, and Aunt Qiao from one glance.

However, despite him repeatedly telling himself to remain calm, when he saw the villagers being escorted out like prisoners, a gush of anger and hatred uncontrollably flooded his heart.

The villagers were innocent, but they had been imprisoned and likely subjected to torture and pain in the past few days because they were connected to him!

"Village Chief!" Lin Xun shouted. "I'm here to collect you all!" His voice made the area quake as it spread in all directions.

Immediately, the lethargic villagers stirred up. They raised their heads and looked at Lin Xun in the distance.

"Is it...Little Brother Lin Xun?"

"It's him. I haven't seen him for three years. He has grown so much!"

"This is bad! Why did that silly boy come here alone? Does he not know it's a trap?"

The villagers' faces all lit up when they saw Lin Xun, but soon they became worried and uneasy.

"Lin Xun, why are you so silly? Do you think they will let us go if you come? Hurry run! Leave us here. Go! As long as you are alive, you can avenge us one day!" Xiao Tianren roared.

"Yes, hurry up and leave! Our lives are worthless anyway, but Lin Xun, you can't be so stupid and die with us!" Aunt Qiao also yelled.

"Big Brother Lin Xun, we have already said that we would rather die than let those bad people get their way! So, hurry up and leave!" Ying Liu'er also cried out.

Lin Xun clenched his hands tight. He wanted to immediately slaughter the entire Yao Family.

PA!

Suddenly, a Yao Family member swung a whip towards Village Chief Xiao Tianren's face, leaving a bloody scar

"I'm going to kill you all if you make another noise!"

It was a fierce-looking man with malevolent eyes. When he spoke, his whip lashed through the air and ripped the villagers' skin. Blood-curdling screams rang endlessly in the air.

"Stop!" Lin Xun's eyes almost popped out from anger.

"Haha, who do you think you are?!" laughed the fierce man.

As he was speaking, he swung the whip again and sent a villager collapsing to the ground, screaming in agony.

"Don't worry, I'll let you know who I am in a moment!" Lin Xun took a deep breath, doing everything he could to suppress his murderous rage. His voice seemed to be squeezed out of his teeth.

"Okay, it's time to talk business." Yao Tuohai said, stopping the fierce man.

"Tell me, what did you want me to come here for?" Lin Xun's voice was ice-cold.

"Little friend, relax. We didn't tell you to come here for something bad. On the contrary, it might be a great fortune for you. If you tie yourself up with this chain, I will guarantee that the villagers will be released and give this good fortune to you." Yao Tuohai spoke indifferently as he flicked his sleeve and tossed out a twelve-foot-long chain. It clattered to the ground not far away.

The chain seemed to be made of bones and was releasing a frightening icy aura. Faintly, there seemed to be wisps of blood-colored evil qi rising from it and transforming into fiendish spirits. They occasionally produced ghost-like wails.

Lin Xun couldn't help but shiver inwardly. He sensed a dangerous and malevolent aura from the chain.

Undoubtedly, any cultivator would lose the strength to resist once bound by the chain.

"What if I don't agree?" Lin Xun raised his head, his eyes glinting coldly like lightning as he looked at Yao Tuohai.

"Little friend, you are a smart person. You should know that if you don't agree, not only these villagers will die, but you also won't have a chance to escape in my Yao Clan's territory," Yao Tuohai said triumphantly like he had complete control of the situation.

"I will give you three breaths of time to think about it. After that, with every breath you take, I will kill a villager. You only have one chance. I hope you will think about it carefully." Yao Tuohai put his hands behind his back, his face cold and emotionless.

The rest of the Yao Family members smiled coldly behind him and looked at Lin Xun condescendingly like he was a dead man.

"Lin Xun, hurry up and run! You must not agree!"

"They are all wicked people. Don't believe what they say."

"Quickly run—!

The villagers of Feiyun Village all yelled anxiously, persuading Lin Xun to leave.

However, their cries only made the Yao Family members more smug because they believed that Lin Xun wouldn't be able to escape even if he had wings.

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Three breaths to consider!

It was no doubt a kind of psychological oppression. Yao Tuohai didn't intend to give Lin Xun a chance to consider it.

He had to agree or the Feiyun villagers would be slaughtered!

Yao Tuohai had made a name for himself many years ago and had great experiences in battle so if he said so, it meant that he wouldn't have any mercy.

Any other people would have crumbled already under such intense pressure and after walking into a trap alone.

But Lin Xun didn't. Even if he was filled with endless anger and hatred, his expression remained calm and indifferent.

"Yao Tuohai, do you think you've won?" Lin Xun's voice was unusually calm, without a ripple of emotion. It was as though Yao Tuohai's so-called threat didn't affect him in the slightest.

Clang!

A sword as clear as the spring in autumn appeared in Yao Tuohai's grip, and he lunged it towards the throat of a villager, scraping their skin.

Then, he smiled. "Are you sure you want to try?"

The atmosphere suddenly stiffened, and everyone's chest tightened. It seemed that a bloody incident would break out if Lin Xun refused to obey.

Lin Xun didn't waste time talking nonsense with them and just raised his hand into the air.

His action shocked many people. What is that guy doing?

Only Yao Tuohai seemed to notice something, as his pupils rapidly shrank.

Rumble!

At the same time, a thunderous roar suddenly sounded behind Lin Xun, and an intermediate-grade battleship over a hundred feet long ripped apart the clouds like an air fortress and came roaring in their direction.

Mighty Eagle Battleship!

It was equipped with heavy firepower and was strong enough to kill Heaven Ascension experts. It was a powerful weapon usually only seen on the battlefield on the frontier.

However, such a battleship had suddenly appeared in the Yao Clan in Qingfeng County, making Yao Clan members look a little startled and perplexed.

This Qingfeng County was a territory of their Yao Family!

However, an intermediate-grade battleship of the empire unbelievably appeared without them realizing it!

Yao Tuohai furrowed his brows slightly, but he didn't panic and just watched quietly.

Rumble!

The Mighty Eagle Battleship landed, the hatch opened, and figures walked out one after another in a mighty manner.

Those figures were, no doubt, extraordinary people. All of them looked imposing and formidable. Some were even at the Heaven Ascension Stage!

Moreover, there wasn't only one, but a group of them...

What was that about?

In the entire Qingfeng County, there were only a handful of Heaven Ascension experts, but an army of them had appeared. Their appearance was not only spectacular but also shocking!

It was extremely difficult to gather so many Heaven Ascension cultivators in the southwest province!

Could they be reinforcements that Lin Xun called?

The Yao Family members' expressions morphed indefinitely.

They adopted strategies such as diversion and underhanded means to trick Lin Xun into leaving Forbidden City and traveling to Donglin City. Then, they lured him to Qingfeng County. They had gone to such trouble to prevent other forces from helping Lin Xun, but who would have thought it still happened?!

"That despicable little bastard knew that he wasn't coming alone!"

"Damn it, how did he do it? It's only been two days. How did he mobilize so many forces?"

"We received a report that Lin Xun hadn't alerted anyone when he left the Forbidden City, but how could this happen?"

The Yao Family cursed in anger and panic. They no longer looked as smug as before knowing that the situation wasn't in their favor anymore.

"Lin Xun, if you think that you can save the villagers by inviting some helpers here, then you are very wrong!" Yao Tuohai uttered in a deep voice.

Even at that moment, there wasn't a tinge of panic or fear on his face.

Lin Xun had to admit that Yao Tuohai was indeed an extremely difficult opponent. At least, he was much superior to ordinary people in terms of courage and calmness in dangerous situations.

But before Lin Xun said a word, Yao Tuohai's face started to change and he cried out, "How...is this possible?"

He saw a group of tied-up figures being escorted out of the Mighty Eagle Battleship like prisoners.

There were hundreds of people!

All of them were from his Yao Family!

Regardless of how calm he always was, he couldn't stop a wave of panic from sweeping over him.

Only three days had passed since Lin Xun left the Forbidden City, but the youth was able to mobilize such a powerful group of cultivators to assist him as well as capture all the Yao Family members from various places. He was too terrifying!

It should be mentioned that Qingfeng County was under Yao Tuohai's control, but he failed to notice anything abnormal from beginning to end!

That suggested the forces helping Lin Xun were incredibly powerful!

"My heavens! Young Master Yukun from the First Elder's residence, Miss Fangfei from Third Elder's residence and Young Master Yuting from Ninth Elder's residence...They...how come they were all captured?"

The Yao Clan members exclaimed in disbelief, their hands and feet became ice-cold, and their faces were overcast.

They thought that they had Lin Xun in their control and that he came alone this time, but a Mighty Eagle Battleship suddenly descended and brought a group of powerful Heaven Ascension cultivators.

Not only that, hundreds of people of the Yao Clan had been captured!

The clansmen at the front were all direct descendants of the Yao Clan!

The atmosphere suddenly became still and silent. The series of changes happened so fast and so abruptly that the entire Yao Family was still in a state of shock and couldn't calm down.

The wind howled.

The Mighty Eagle Battleship landed to the ground, and a group of experts gathered behind Lin Xun under the leadership of Mu Wansu.

The captured Yao Family members were set down in front of the Yao Family in the distance like prisoners, their faces gloomy and full of despair.

Their situation couldn't be clearer.

Lin Xun didn't come alone, but instead brought an army of terrifying forces that consisted of people from Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, the Ye Family and the Gong Family.

The captured Yao Family members had no doubt become Lin Xun's trump cards and reversed his situation.

After a long silence, Yao Tuohai sighed out loud, "The younger generations are terrifying. In just three days, you managed to secretly make so many arrangements without me knowing. You amaze me."

His confidence still hadn't been shaken, and he seemed calm and composed.

"You think too much. I'm just fighting fire with fire. If you weren't so despicable, why would I need to put up such a fight?" Lin Xun said coldly. "Stop talking nonsense. Let those villagers go, and I will release the people from your Yao Clan."

"An exchange?" Yao Tuohai's eyes were deep and unfathomable.

"Patriarch! Absolutely not! If you do that, then our advantage..."

"Patriarch, we put in a lot of effort to achieve today's situation. How can we let that bastard Lin Xun get what he wants?"

"As a member of the Yao Clan, we should be willing to sacrifice ourselves for the clan. No matter what, we can't agree to his conditions!"

The Yao family members all cried anxiously. They all understood that if they released the villagers, they would have nothing to threaten Lin Xun and a fierce battle would be bound to break out between them and the experts that Lin Xun brought.

The Yao Family was very likely to suffer serious and unimaginable damage as a result!

Who would want to let Lin Xun get what he wanted?!

"Do as he says!"

Unexpectedly, Yao Tuohai said decisively, "They are also members of my Yao Family. If I can save their lives for those lowly villagers, I have no hesitation."

"Lowly villagers?"

A cold, murderous glint flashed in Lin Xun's eyes. "The entire Yao Family combined is not as precious as them!"

Yao Tuohai's face was expressionless as if he was too lazy to argue with Lin Xun.

After that, the two sides began to exchange hostages. Nothing unexpected happened in the process, but the Yao Family members' eyes were seething. It was a kind of humiliation to them.

When Lin Xun rescued all the villagers in Feiyun Village, the tight string in his heart finally relaxed, like the heaviest rock in his heart had been lifted.

Village Chief Xiao Tianren and the others were so happy that they rambled incoherently. It never crossed their minds that they would have a chance to live again.

Lin Xun asked Mu Wansu to take care of them and brought them into the battleship to rest before turning his gaze to Yao Tuohai in the distance.

Instantly, Lin Xun's bearing changed. The murderous intent that he had long suppressed erupted. The villagers he cared about the most had been rescued, and it was time to settle things!

The experts from Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, Gong Family and other behemoth clans were all waiting for that moment.

Murderous intent rose into the sky like smoke signals, making the clouds roil, the sky darken and the atmosphere stifling.

On the Yao Family's side, everyone looked serious and solemn. They all knew that a battle was inevitable.

It determined the life and death of the Yao Family!

They were just upset that, without the villagers of Feiyun Village as hostages, the strength of the Yao Family alone wouldn't be enough to stop their opponents.

They were not pessimistic, but they knew well that their opponents were too strong. They were an army of Heaven Ascension cultivators!

They could move unhindered in the southwest province of the empire!

The Yao Family was only an overlord of Qingfeng County, and Yao Tuohai was the only Heaven Ascension expert in the entire clan. How could they not be pessimistic?

However, Yao Tuohai appeared extremely calm. Moreover, there was an almost imperceptible tinge of excitement in the eyes.

He swept an expressionless glance over Lin Xun and the experts behind him and sneered, "Lin Xun, do you think you have won? You are wrong! I already told you that you can't change anything today. You are doomed regardless of how many reinforcements you have! All of you will be wiped out!"

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Yao Tuohai's words shocked all the experts around Lin Xun. Is this guy crazy?

Wipe out?

He dared to spew such nonsense given the strength of his Yao Family!

Even the Yao Family members looked confused.

Only Lin Xun felt a strong sense of danger surging in his heart. Before he came to Qingfeng County, he already knew that Yao Tuohai wouldn't be so crazy to go against him alone, so he suspected that there was a stronger force manipulating everything in the shadows.

Yao Tuohai had just confirmed his speculation!

Hua-

However, before Lin Xun could react, a metallic grinding noise sounded not far away.

It came from the chain made up of white bones with blood-colored fiendish qi surging on the surface, which had transformed into ferocious and fiendish shadows in the air.

It was the treasure that Yao Tuohai previously tossed out and advised Lin Xun to not put up a fight, but after a series of changes, many people had almost forgotten the chain.

However, it strangely moved all of a sudden like it was alive. It stretched out like a bone spear and launched an attack.

Boom!

The air exploded like paper, unable to withstand the power of the blow. It was too terrifying. It seemed capable of piercing everything like a shaft of light and destroying everything in sight.

Lin Xun inhaled sharply, his face blanching. A rush of pain shot through his skin, and his hair stood on its ends. He felt a suffocating threat of death.

Clang!

With a violent roar, he mobilized all the strength in his body to its peak. The broken blade in his hand erupted in a blaze of silvery light and swiftly slashed through the air.

The distance was too close. Lin Xun had no time or chance to dodge so he had to fight the chain headon.

Bang!

Following an earth-shattering collision, the world was plunged into chaos.

Lin Xun was hit hard. His arm was almost shattered, blood spurted out from his nose and mouth, and his body was on the verge of collapsing.

He grunted from the indescribably agonizing pain before he was blasted across the air.

The power of that blow was too terrifying. If his physique hadn't been tempered to a perfect state, that blow would have killed him!

It had to be said that Lin Xun could face off against Heaven Ascension cultivators with his current strength yet he failed to counter the blow at all. Imaginably, the bone chain was frightening.

"Lin Xun!"

The nearby experts exclaimed. Everything happened in the blink of an eye. It was so fast that they had no time to respond, let alone help Lin Xun.

In truth, no one thought that a chain of bones would be a killing weapon and suddenly erupt with murderous intent!

"Huh? Did you block my attack? Interesting little guy," a gravelly and cold voice sounded from the white bone chain.

It seemed to possess a peculiar and eerie power that chilled everything to the bone.

Lin Xun stumbled to the ground, whipping up a cloud of dust and smoke. His face was ashen and wet with sweat. He had almost lost his life, so how could he remain calm?

What terrifying power is that?

"Stop it first!"

The experts from Stone Cauldron Alms and other forces attacked at the same time. They were all Heaven Ascension cultivators yet someone wounded Lin Xun under their nose! They couldn't help but feel a little ashamed.

Rumble—

The sky and earth rioted and quaked from the flood of terrifying secret arts. Mighty imago power raged and wreaked havoc like a tsunami.

The power of one Heaven Ascension expert was enough to incinerate mountains and devastate one side of the world.

The joint attack of a group of Heaven Ascension experts would no doubt contain unimaginable destructive power as if a monstrous disaster had descended upon the world.

The Yao Family members in the distance shuddered all over. They dared not imagine what kind of terrifying disaster the group of experts would cause if they charged into their residence.

Only Yao Tuohai stood indifferently with his hands behind his back. But lightning was flickering in his eyes, and a tinge of excitement was rising in his heart.

Finally....it's time to end it all!

"Haha, little ants, you dare to challenge me? Get lost!" The gravely and cold voice rang again, quaking the world like a mighty king erupting with anger.

With a boom, a mighty figure suddenly rushed out of the white bone chain. It waved its giant hand and shattered everything in all ten directions!

Pu-Pu-Pu-

Instantly, the group of Heaven Ascension cultivators were blasted violently across the air like pieces of paper, coughing up blood. They collapsed to the ground, looking extremely miserable.

It was too unbelievable. Who would have thought that a group of Heaven Ascension cultivators who could move unhindered in the southwest province of the empire couldn't withstand a single blow from the mighty figure?

All the Yao Family members' eyes went wide with astonishment like they saw a miracle. Their breathing stopped for a moment. So powerful! It blasted away a group of Heaven Ascension cultivators with a wave of its hand and quaked the world. Could it be...a Life Death Stage King?

Immediately, they burst into excited and proud cheers. No wonder Patriarch looked so confident!

Indeed, Yao Tuohai was grinning ear to ear as though everything was under his control and progressing according to his plan.

That was his true trump card!

He had been in the world for so many years, so he obviously knew that he would face many twists and turns if he wanted to kill Lin Xun?

Furthermore, he also had to know that a young genius like Lin Xun wouldn't come alone, right?

However, Yao Tuohai was fearless!

.....

The mighty figure stood tall in the sky while terrifying qi spread across the area and completely enveloped it.

Vaguely, the world seemed to be whining and wailing. The fabric of space felt like it was collapsing, and ancient imago power was gathering around the mighty figure. It was mysterious yet terrifying as though it could subdue all powers in the world.

That was no doubt power that exceeded the Heaven Ascension Stage. It was even much more superior to the power of the Cyclic Derivation Stage. It made people feel despair and insignificant even from afar.

It was as though they had to bow down to the proud king standing atop the peak of a mountain!

Most terrifyingly, not a single person present saw the true face of the mighty figure. It was as mysterious and unfathomable as a god.

All of a sudden, color drained from the faces of the experts from Stone Cauldron Alms and other forces, and fear flooded their hearts like they had fallen into an ice cave.

Life Death Stage King!

Given their powers, they could easily identify the cultivation level of the mighty figure.

Who would dare to imagine that in the Yao Family of Qingfeng County there would be a king who could stand at the top of the empire?!

Even Lin Xun froze to the spot. A Life Death Stage King! No wonder Yao Tuohai looked so confident...

However, Lin Xun couldn't understand why Yao Tuohai would go to such lengths to kill him, even at the risk of offending Stone Cauldron Alms and the Ning Family.

What was his true motive?

In Lin Xun's opinion, there had to be some kind of motive behind any action. Someone like Yao Tuohai would never do something so crazy and mad if he didn't have a reason to do so.

Everything seemed to happen slowly, but it happened in an instant.

The appearance of a Life Death Stage King could deter enemies with their aura alone. Heaven Ascension Cultivators couldn't fight back.

However, the Life Death Stage King's target was Lin Xun, and the Heaven Ascension cultivators who were seen as insignificant ants were being completely ignored.

"Little guy, come with me. It is a waste for a talent like you to stay in the Ziyao Empire," the mighty figure spoke aloud. His gravelly and cold voice felt like a blast of wind from hell. Everyone shivered all over, their hair standing on end.

I can't move at all!

The invisible aura alone had suppressed Lin Xun to the point that he could not budge an inch or move a finger. The difference in strength between them was too tremendous!

The opponent could eliminate him with one thought!

That was the power of a Life Death Stage King. They could control life and death with one thought, and only those of the same cultivation stage could contend against them.

Everyone else was insignificant ants to them!

Lin Xun once again felt powerless, but he didn't show a tinge of panic or despair on his face.

"Why?" Lin Xun asked as blood trickled down the corners of his lips. Although he had survived the blow, he sustained significant injuries.

Yes, why?

Yao Tuohai had been scheming for so long and even brought out a Life Death Stage King. Why would he go to such great lengths to only take Lin Xun away?

"Hahaha, Lin Xun, you should feel very lucky now. I already told you that I want to bless you with a great opportunity. Now, this blessing is right in front of you. You should thank me and be grateful to me!" Yao Tuohai laughed complacently.

Lin Xun ignored him and just stared at the mighty figure in the distance as if hoping to see through that person's true identity and intention.

Unfortunately, it was impossible. He couldn't possibly fathom anything about a Life Death Stage King.

"Come with me and you will understand."

The mighty figure didn't hesitate any longer. With a wave of his sleeve, he reached out and grabbed Lin Xun on the ground like he was picking up a little ant.

Not even great cultivators of the Cyclic Derivation Stage could evade that attack, let alone Lin Xun!

"Lin Xun!"

The Heaven Ascension cultivators cried. They couldn't bear to watch.

But Lin Xun was utterly calm.

He sat motionless on the ground, as though he had given up struggling.

However, just when the giant hand descended and was about to completely cover him, a fist blasted out and blocked Lin Xun's body.

The fist looked like it had smashed through space and crossed the river of time, appearing in the world in an invincible manner!

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The strength in the punch was condensed, and the fist itself was simple and unshowy, but it smashed through the air and destroyed everything in its way.

Crash!

It shattered the giant hand into a shower of light.

Then, the wind generated from the fist swept away the wisps of light raining down.

Most terrifyingly, the fist continued to speed forward until it slammed into the mighty figure in the distance. It was simple, direct and domineering!

A fist appeared out of nowhere and destroyed the blow of a Life Death Stage King, making the world tremble.

Everyone's jaw dropped. The shockwaves from the collision would have wiped out everything and obliterated all living beings.

However, the blast of wind from the fist effortlessly dissolved the impact!

What kind of power was required to achieve that?

The Heaven Ascension cultivators were all stirred up. They knew that another Life Death Stage King had appeared at the critical juncture.

On the other hand, a look of shock washed over the Yao Family members' faces as though lightning had struck. Someone stopped the Life Death Stage King?

How is that possible?

Yao Yuohai's triumphant face morphed into an aghast expression, and his body went stiff. He thought that everything had already been settled, and Lin Xun wouldn't be able to change the situation. Who would have thought that such a change would suddenly happen?

Only Lin Xun seemed very calm. But deep in his heart, he was extremely tense and nervous. At that moment, he finally relaxed.

"Ning Bugui!"

The mighty figure also sounded a little surprised. Terrifying shimmering water rippled all over its body, like a sea god standing in the ocean.

"Haha, I wondered who would be so shameless to do that to a junior. It turns out to be you. You care for nothing except saving your own skin! I didn't think that you would dare cross the Darkness Kingdom's border to come to the Ziyao Empire to cause trouble! Maybe you should stay here forever then!"

Suddenly, a burst of rough and loud laughter rang out, sending a shudder through the nine heavens and shaking all the clansmen of the Yao Family. Their blood and qi tumbled around, and they saw sparks fly across their eyes.

Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui!

A commotion broke out in the audience. They had never thought that it would be the legendary Steel-Blood King!

He once swore that he only lived to fight, and even if he died, he would die among mountains of corpses and seas of blood!

He had a long military career and conquered all battlefields. Who wouldn't be shocked to see him?

Even Lin Xun was stirred up when he heard Ning Bugui's heroic laugh. He is unquestionably a true king!

Rumble!

Before his voice faded, an imposing figure appeared in the sky, yelling, "Old thing, come out and fight!"

The voice was filled with contempt like that of a god looking over the world.

"Hmph, do you think I don't have the guts? Do you think I would be afraid of you, Ning Bugui?" the mighty figure snorted coldly.

But without any visible movement, it vanished and soared beyond the ninth heaven.

"Hahaha, I will slaughter you today, shameless old man! Let's see if you can still act tough after that!" Ning Bugui laughed and soared into the air.

All of a sudden, a world-shaking duel of the Life Death Stage broke out beyond the sky. The distance was too far, making it impossible to see what was happening.

They could only hear the echo of god-like roars and clouds rumbling.

Countless streaks of divine light crisscrossed beyond the sky like a rain of light formed from the terrifying explosion of stars.

It was a duel between Life Death Stage Kings!

If the duel had happened in the world, it would have devastated mountains and rivers and plunged people into misery and suffering like it was the end of the world.

Such a tragedy would only be avoided by fighting beyond the ninth heaven.

Everyone was still and silent.

They had never imagined that they would be fortunate enough to witness a duel between Life Death Stage Kings in Qingfeng County!

In the past, there had never been conflicts of that level, even on the frontier battlefield.

"Yao Tuohai, as a citizen of the empire, you colluded with the Darkness Kingdom! Do you know that's treason? Your entire clan will be punished with execution!" Lin Xun suddenly shouted.

His accusation snapped everyone out of shock.

Everyone's expressions dramatically changed!

The Darkness Kingdom was the greatest enemy of the empire. Since ancient times, an unknown number of great sages had fought on the frontier battlefield and sacrificed themselves in exchange for peace for the empire.

However, Yao Tuohai, a clan leader of Qingfeng County and a famous Heaven Ascension cultivator in the southwest province of the empire, colluded with the Darkness races and invited a king of the Darkness race to deal with Lin Xun. His action was no different from treason!

If this matter spread out, the entire Yao Family would be condemned and regarded as traitors.

Steel-Blood King had already proved it to be true, so the Yao Family members couldn't deny it even if they wanted to.

"Kill! Kill the traitors of the empire!"

"So despicable. The Yao Family deserves to die. They are citizens of the empire but they serve other races!"

The experts from Stone Cauldron Alms and other forces raged, "Don't waste time talking to them! We must eradicate the Yao Family today!"

But the angriest were no doubt the cultivators from the Ning Family. They had fought many years on the battlefield with the Steel-Blood King and had watched many of their comrades die in battle. It was easy to imagine how angry they were to learn that Yao Tuohai colluded with the Darkness race.

Boom!

Everyone was boiling with anger, and many experts launched murderous attacks to eradicate the Yao Family. It was impossible to stop them anymore.

The faces of the Yao Family members turned deathly pale. How could they have expected the situation would develop to such a state?

"Clan leader! Is it true?" someone roared in disbelief.

The other Yao Family members also panicked. Colluding with the Darkness races is a huge crime!

"I will explain to you all after we kill the enemies. Now isn't the time to chat!" Yao Tuohai drew a deep breath, his expression ice-cold.

At this point, he still had no intention of giving up. But in truth, he was going crazy in his heart.

Everything was progressing as perfectly as he had planned, but who would have thought that Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui would suddenly appear and reverse the situation?

How could he accept that?

However, it was useless to think too much about it. If he fought, there might be a chance of survival, but if he gave up, he would be doomed!

"Kill!" Yao Tuohai roared, his hair flying upwards.

His fighting spirit was completely ignited. No one could focus on the duel taking place beyond the nine heavens anymore. In fact, they also had no energy to pay attention to it at all.

The group of Heaven Ascension cultivators resembled killing gods as they attacked the Yao Family in fury and set off storms of blood.

The Yao Family couldn't sit still and do nothing. They decided to counterattack with all their strength because they all knew that a battle was unavoidable.

They would either live or die!

For a moment, the sky darkened. The chilling wind wreaked havoc, and terrifying shafts of light pierced the sky. All sorts of mysterious secret arts were activated, each one as gorgeous and splendid as fireworks.

It was too tragic. Within seconds, the grand gate of the Yao Family was trampled, and rows upon rows of houses collapsed into ruins.

Bright-red blood stained the air, and angry roars, screams and cries rang endlessly.

Without the support of the Life Death Stage King, the great Yao Family wouldn't have the strength to struggle against the attacks of a group of furious Heaven Ascension cultivators.

It was a bloody and tragic scene. The tremendous movement there alarmed many cultivators in Qingfeng County.

However, no one dared to come near for fear of being swept into the clash and putting their lives at risk!

"Heavens, is someone trying to destroy the Yao Clan?"

Qingfeng County fell into a state of shock.

On the battlefield, Lin Xun also acted. His black hair fluttered in the air as he performed the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. He sped towards Yao Tuohai with incredible speed like a flash of lightning.

"Yao Tuohai, you will die in my hands today!" Amidst his ice-cold voice, he flicked his sleeve and brought the Four Coiling Dragon Pillars descending from the sky to imprison Yao Tuohai.

Rumble!

Instantly, they were isolated from the world. Only Lin Xun and Yao Tuohai stood within the illusion.

"Haha, with your strength? Not to mention that you are now injured, but even if you are in your prime state, you are just an insignificant ant to me!" Yao Tuohai sneered.

He panicked at first when he realized he had been trapped in the illusion, but when he found that Lin Xun was the only one inside he couldn't help smiling. Compared to the outside world, it is much less dangerous inside.

Clang!

Lin Xun didn't waste any time talking to him. A twelve-foot-long dark gray spear suddenly appeared in his hand, casting one obscure and mysterious rune formation after another.

Then, it transformed into armor and covered Lin Xun entirely.

Lin Xun's aura suddenly soared to a terrifying level, filled with the aura of destruction. He resembled the god of death.

"Rune armament?"

Yao Tuohai's eyes narrowed. "That wouldn't be the Shattered Tragedy Spear you just crafted, right?"

Shua!

The spear transformed into thousands of images and shadows and darted towards Yao Tuohai.

Endless anger and hatred had been building up in Lin Xun's heart in the past few days. If he didn't kill Yao Tuohai with his own hands, he would never be able to forgive himself.

Boom!

The spear shadows and images stacked upon each other like thousands of mountains, disrupting the flow of air and creating ear-piercing, explosive noises.

"Haha, you are too arrogant. Do you think you can beat me with a rune armament? Since you came to throw away your life, I won't let you down!!" Yao Tuohai chuckled as he launched his fiercest attack.

A glint of greed flashed in his eyes. If he could control the Shattered Tragedy Spear and combine it with his Heaven Ascension powers, he might be able to find a way to escape!

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Die!

Yao Tuohai's scholarly face was crossed with intense murderous intent. He brought out a dazzling golden sword emitting endless golden sword qi.

Hepta Gold Sword Art!

It was an incredibly fierce sword art that contained gold imago power and could easily obliterate a Spirit Sea expert with the slightest amount of qi.

It was not an exaggeration. Heaven Ascension cultivators were extremely powerful because they could comprehend and grasp the imago power of the great Dao. That kind of power was incredible as it resonated with heaven and earth and seized the good blessings of the world.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, Lin Xun swung up his spear and made several sweeping motions in different directions. Wherever it touched, the air boomed and the terrifying sword qi crumbled, vanishing in a rain of light.

"Huh?"

Yao Tuohai cried out in surprise, "I didn't expect you, a rune founder, would have such martial arts skills."

His entire body was emitting bright golden light, and his imposing bearing was soaring aggressively. The sword erupted in a blaze of light in his hand, pouring out endless waves of swords.

The blinding golden power tore through space, plunging the void into chaos. The sword qi swirled in the air like a giant wave lifting high up like it was about to engulf the world.

As one of the most famous Heaven Ascension cultivators in the southwest province of the empire, Yao Tuohai was indeed very strong and deserved his fame.

At that moment, his hair was gracefully blowing around, his expression was imposing and majestic, and his entire body was enveloped in golden light. He was like a golden sword god, exuding invincible confidence and might.

"Young man, even though you have the Shattered Tragedy Spear and the power to fight against me, your own cultivation level is too low. You are dreaming if you think you can kill me!" Yao Tuohai laughed, displaying his cultivation to its fullest.

He approached Lin Xun step by step, attempting to completely suppress him.

"Is that right?" Lin Xun looked indifferent, but his eyes flashed with a cold light.

As he tightened his grip around the twelve-foot-long spear, the gray aura around it surged turbulently, filled with destructive power. He suddenly charged forward like a flash of lightning with the Hornless Ice Dragon Step.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Golden qi crisscrossed in the air before it rained down, piercing holes into the void. Each one resembled a golden waterfall as it blazed with golden light.

That was Yao Tuohai's power! He gave Lin Xun no chance to get close to him at all.

The golden sword qi was like a surging tide, penetrating the sky and the earth. It would have wiped out mountains and rivers in the outside world.

Amidst the roar of the Shattered Tragedy Spear, Lin Xun was overflowing with a vast dark gray aura, making him appear hazy and illusory. It was like a vision of destruction.

Waves of golden sword qi descended one after another and were about to drown Lin Xun, when an unbelievable scene happened—

As Lin Xun waved his spear, the sea of sword qi was instantly blasted away and destroyed. They failed to stop him from charging forward in the slightest.

Yao Tuohai looked amazed again. He was astonished that it could withstand the bombardment of sword qi. The Shattered Tragedy Spear is very unique and special. It deserves to be called a peerless treasure.

His eyes blazed with determination. The incredible power of the Shattered Tragedy Spear made him determined to get his hands on it!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Yao Tuohai mobilized all his strength. The dazzling golden light transformed into million drops of sword rain and lashed down like a blazing golden sword descending upon the world.

That was his trump card. Even ordinary Heaven Ascension cultivators wouldn't be able to withstand such a terrifying attack, let alone a Spirit Sea cultivator.

Boom!

However, Lin Xun didn't attempt to dodge, but continued to charge forward in an unstoppable manner.

The spear in his hand suddenly released a clear cry that reverberated throughout the nine heavens and produced an extremely terrifying wave of destruction.

The wave of destruction rapidly swept across the area, instantly wiping out the millions of sword qi.

The tip of the spear rapidly broke through numerous obstacles and thrust toward Yao Tuohai's throat!

It was too fast!

It was too powerful!

It seemed to be destroying everything in the world!

Yao Tuohai trembled, his pupils rapidly shrinking.

Clang!

He brought his sword up to block.

However, with an ear-piercing explosion, the sword snapped and shattered in his hand!

No!

Why is it so terrifying?

Yao Tuohai inhaled sharply and his heart froze. He never thought that Lin Xun would have such tremendous power with just the Shattered Tragedy Spear.

"Do you want to kill me? You wish!" Yao Tuohai roared, took out a blood-colored flag, and gently waved it across the air in a sweeping motion. Millions of blood coloured waves rushed out amidst the faint wailing and screams of ghosts.

Ghost Spirit Blood Flag!

It was an extremely deadly treasure that was very difficult to create. Any cultivator swept into the blood-colored wave would be corroded. And at worst, they would be turned into a pile of bones!

Boom!

However, the sea of blood was instantly wiped away, and the Ghost Spirit Blood Flag was torn like a rag before exploding to pieces as the spear pierced right through it!

"How..."

Yao Tuohai's expression changed once again. He understood the terror of a rune armament, but he never thought that the Shattered Tragedy Spear would be so powerful that it would destroy two of his treasures in quick succession!

"Die!"

Lin Xun launched another attack before waiting for Yao Tuohai to recover from his shock. He was determined and resolute and never wavered at all.

No one could stop him from killing Yao Tuohai!

This old guy almost killed Xia Zhi and me three years ago, and now, he is colluding with a king of the Darkness race. How can I tolerate that?

What terrified Lin Xun the most was that Yao Tuohai was extremely shrewd, cunning and ruthless. He would be an unpredictable thorn in the future if he allowed him to live.

Boom!

The tip of the spear was like a bolt of lightning, like a dragon, like an illusion. Enveloped in the aura of destruction, it swept across the air.

"Hmph, today I will make you understand the gap between the Heaven Ascension Stage and the Spirit Sea Stage!" Yao Tuohai was truly enraged.

Although his repeated defeats made him realize that Lin Xun was extremely strong, they also ignited his determination to kill.

Boom!

Suddenly, he brought out a golden octagonal pagoda. It shot out a streak of mysterious light and instantly engulfed Lin Xun.

Dong!

The pagoda flickered and sucked Lin Xun inside.

Then, the pagoda rotated, shrank to the size of a palm, and landed in Yao Tuohai's hands.

"Hahaha..." Yao Tuohai burst out laughing as he held up the golden octagonal pagoda. "No matter how good you are, you are now imprisoned in my pagoda!"

The pagoda was an ancient treasure that Yao Tuohai had found in an ancient ruin more than a hundred years ago. Its mysterious golden light could engulf everything with a gentle sweep. Even the strongest Heaven Ascension cultivators would find it difficult to escape from the pagoda.

Moreover, the pagoda had a total of nine levels, and each level was sealed with different mysterious powers.

Yao Tuohai could only barely use the wonder-gold dao light power sealed on the first level of the pagoda, but even so, its power was extraordinary and could turn living beings into a pool of blood!

"The Shattered Tragedy Spear will belong to me when I refine you into a pool of blood! At that time, who can stop me?" Yao Tuohai threw his head back and laughed.

Today, he thought that he would be locked in a fierce battle with other Heaven Ascension cultivators and would only have a slim chance of surviving, but Lin Xun foolishly decided to fight him alone in the illusion.

Lin Xun was like a juicy bit of prey that had been delivered to his door, and he came with a powerful rune armament, so how would Yao Tuohai not be delighted?

He was certain that if he made good use of time, he would be able to break out and escape before Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui came to rescue Lin Xun!

At that time, he could go anywhere in the vast world! Who could do anything to Yao Tuohai?

Dong!

It was at that moment, the golden pagoda violently shook and almost fell out of Yao Tuohai's hands.

His pupils shrank. Don't tell me the Mysterious Gold True Light also can't suppress the little bastard?

Buzz-

Yao Tuohai took a deep breath, gritted his teeth, and mobilized his strength. The pagoda glowed brightly and the sound of faint sacred chanting of scriptures echoed in the air.

As expected, the pagoda slowly vibrated before it was restored to calmness.

Yao Tuohai's face had become deathly pale. The pagoda was extremely powerful, but it consumed an astonishing amount of energy!

Dong!

However, before Yao Tuohai had fully relaxed, the pagoda erupted in a blaze of golden light and violently vibrated. Yao Tuohai's hands became numb from the vibration and almost lost control of it.

Boom!

A figure suddenly rushed out from the bottom of the pagoda, clasping a long spear and aiming it at Yao Tuohai.

This is bad!

Yao Tuohai roared in anger and frantically tried to dodge, but the tip of the spear ruthlessly stabbed into his shoulder. The aura of destruction raged, and his entire right arm ruptured in a rain of blood and flesh.

"How is that possible?"

Yao Tuohai's eyes almost popped out from anger. He was going berserk. He had never failed once ever since he obtained the ancient pagoda.

However, he was defeated at the hands of a Spirit Sea teenager!

Lin Xun charged out wielding a long spear, his body cloaked in an armor shrouded in rising gray qi. Without uttering a word, he lunged the spear forward.

He was like the mighty god of death reborn from ashes to destroy everything in the world.

Although Yao Tuohai did everything he could to counterattack and even tried to summon the pagoda again, Lin Xun didn't allow him another chance.

Pu!

Within seconds, Yao Tuohai was struck in the head. Before he could react, his body exploded from the terrifying power of destruction, his spirit turned to ashes, and he died on the spot.

The renowned great cultivator from the southwest province of the empire had been slaughtered!

He likely never had thought that a wounded teenager at the Spirit Sea Stage could kill him with a rune armament.

Injustice?

No!

After all, Lin Xun had previously killed Heaven Ascension cultivators in the Ancient Spirit World even without a rune armament.

Now that he had reached an unprecedented level in the Spirit Sea Stage in terms of cultivation, spirit and physique, and he wielded a killing weapon such as the Shattered Tragedy Spear, it would be more strange if he failed to kill Yao Tuohai.

Of course, the battle against Yao Tuohai was full of hair-raising dangers. He had almost lost his life in the golden nine-storey pagoda!